

Claim 4. (previously amended): A contourable orthopedic pillow comprising:

an inflatable bladder,

a resilient material covering both the top and bottom of said bladder, said resilient material being sufficiently flexible to accommodate inflation of said bladder,

wherein said resilient material has top/bottom symmetry so that the pillow can be turned over for use on either side,

wherein said bladder may be inflated and deflated to adjust contour of the pillow from nearly flat to fully contoured,

wherein contour of the pillow is adjustable in discrete increments by inflating said bladder in discrete increments[.], and

a padding layer covering at least a portion of said resilient material covering including a yieldable cushioning element having a flexible, resilient, gel cushioning media having shape memory and being substantially solid and non-flowable at temperatures below 130 degrees Fahrenheit,

wherein the cushioning element includes a quantity of gel cushioning media formed to have a top, a bottom, and an outer periphery, said cushioning media being compressible so that it will deform under the compressive force of a cushioned object,

a plurality of hollow columns formed in said cushioning media, each of said columns having a longitudinal axis along its length, each of said columns having a column wall which defines a column interior, and each of said columns having two ends,
each of said column ends being positioned at two different points of said column axis,
at least one of said columns being positioned generally parallel to the direction of a compressive force exerted on the cushioning element by a cushioned object, at least one of said column walls being capable of buckling beneath a protuberance.

Claim 5. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 4 further comprising a second inflatable bladder which may be inflated to further adjust orthopedic contour of the pillow.

Claim 6. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 4 further comprising:

a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including

a pump bladder having bladder walls,

an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,

resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and
a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and
a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape therefrom.

Claim 7 (previously amended): A contourable orthopedic pillow comprising:

a bladder that may be inflated by placement of a gas therein, ~~and~~
a resilient material ~~covering~~ overlaying both the top and bottom of said bladder, said resilient material covering being sufficiently flexible to accommodate inflation of said bladder, wherein contour of the pillow is adjustable from nearly flat to fully contoured by inflation of said bladder, ~~and~~

wherein contour of the pillow is adjustable in discrete increments[.], and
a padding layer covering at least a portion of said resilient material covering including a yieldable cushioning element having a flexible, resilient, gel cushioning media having shape memory and being substantially solid and non-flowable at temperatures below 130 degrees Fahrenheit,

wherein the cushioning element includes a quantity of gel cushioning media formed to have a top, a bottom, and an outer periphery, said cushioning media being compressible so that it will deform under the compressive force of a cushioned object,

a plurality of hollow columns formed in said cushioning media, each of said columns having a longitudinal axis along its length, each of said columns having a column wall which defines a column interior, and each of said columns having two ends,

each of said column ends being positioned at two different points of said column axis, at least one of said columns being positioned generally parallel to the direction of a compressive force exerted on the cushioning element by a cushioned object, at least one of said column walls being capable of buckling beneath a protuberance.

Claim 8. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 7 further comprising a second inflatable bladder which may be inflated to further adjust orthopedic contour of the pillow.

Claim 9. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 7 further comprising
a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including
a pump bladder having bladder walls,
an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,
resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand
said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and
a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to
permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and
a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape
therefrom.

Claim 10. (previously amended): A pillow as recited in claim 7 wherein said resilient material
~~covering~~ is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam, memory foam, latex foam
rubber, fiber batting, buckling elastomers, and a resilient material that includes discontinuous
pieces of flexible material joined together by low-durometer, high elongation elastomeric
material.

Claim 11. (original): A pillow as recited in claim 10 further comprising:
a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including
a pump bladder having bladder walls,
an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,
resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand
said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and
a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to
permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and
a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape
therefrom.

Remarks

Applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for
each issue.